

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in this application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A high-strength hot-rolled steel sheet having ferritic structure ~~strengthened by TiC and/or NbC precipitates and adding no Mg~~ a strength of at least 1049 N/mm² excellent in hole expandability and ductility, consisting essentially of, in terms of a mass%:

C	:	0.01 to 0.09%,
Si	:	1.2 to 1.5%,
Mn	:	0.5 to 3.2%,
Al	:	0.003 to 0.04%,
P	:	0.03% or below,
S	:	0.005% or below,
Ti	:	0.10 to 0.25%,
Nb	:	0.01 to 0.05%,

~~at least one of Cu: 0.1 to 1.5% and Ni: 0.1 to 1.0%, and~~

the balance consisting of iron and unavoidable impurities; and

satisfying all of the following formulas <1> to <3>:

$$0.9 \leq 48/12 \times C/Ti < 1.7 \quad \dots \quad <1>$$

$$50,227 \times C - 4,479 \times Mn > -9,860 \quad \dots \quad <2>$$

$$811 \times C + 135 \times Mn + 602 \times Ti + 794 \times Nb > 465$$

$\dots \quad <3>, \text{ and}$

~~having strength of at least 980 N/mm²~~ wherein said hot rolled steel sheet is produced by the steps comprising:

finishing hot rolling at rolling end temperature from an Ar₃ transformation point to 950°C;

cooling the steel sheet to 650 to 800°C at a cooling rate of at least 20°C/sec;

air cooling the steel sheet for 0.5 to 0.8 seconds;

further cooling the steel sheet to 300 to 600°C at a cooling rate of at least 20°C/sec;

and

coiling the steel sheet, whereby ferritic structure is strengthened by TiC and/or NbC precipitates, Mn and C without adding Mg.

2. (Currently Amended) A high-strength hot-rolled steel sheet having ferritic structure ~~strengthened by TiC and/or NbC precipitates and adding no Mg~~ a strength of at least 1049 N/mm² excellent in hole expandability and ductility, consisting essentially of, in terms of a mass%:

C	:	0.01 to 0.09%,
Si	:	1.2 to 1.5%,
Mn	:	0.5 to 3.2%,
Al	:	0.003 to 0.04%,
P	:	0.03% or below,
S	:	0.005% or below,
Ti	:	0.10 to 0.25%,
Nb	:	0.01 to 0.05%,

at least one of Mo: 0.05 to 0.40% and V: 0.001 to 0.10%,

~~at least one of Cu: 0.1 to 1.5% and Ni: 0.1 to 1.0%, and the balance~~
consisting of iron and unavoidable impurities; and satisfying all of the following formulas
<1>' to <3>':

$$0.9 \leq 48/12 \times C/Ti < 1.7 \quad \dots <1>'$$

$$50,227 \times C - 4,479 \times (Mn + 0.57 \times Mo + 1.08 \times V) > -9,860 \quad \dots <2>'$$

$$811 \times C + 135 \times (Mn + 0.57 \times Mo + 1.08 \times V) + 602 \times Ti + 794 \times Nb > 465 \quad \dots <3>', \text{ and}$$

having strength of at least 980 N/mm² wherein said hot rolled steel sheet is produced by the steps comprising:

finishing hot rolling at rolling end temperature from an Ar₃ transformation point to 950°C;

cooling the steel sheet to 650 to 800°C at a cooling rate of at least 20°C/sec;

air cooling the steel sheet for 0.5 to 0.8 seconds;

further cooling the steel sheet to 300 to 600°C at a cooling rate of at least 20°C/sec;

and

coiling the steel sheet, whereby ferritic structure is strengthened by TiC and/or NbC precipitates, Mn and C without adding Mg.

3-5. (Canceled).

6. (Withdrawn) A production method of a high strength hot rolled steel sheet excellent in hole expandability and ductility according to claim 1, comprising the steps of:
finishing hot rolling by setting a rolling end temperature to from an Ar₃

transformation point to 950°C;

cooling a hot rolled steel sheet to 650 to 800°C at a cooling rate of at least 20°C/sec;

air cooling then the steel sheet for 0.5 to 15 seconds;

further cooling the steel sheet to 300 to 600°C at a cooling rate of at least 20°C/sec;

and

coiling the steel sheet.

7. (New) A high-strength hot-rolled steel sheet having ferritic structure and a strength of at least 1049 N/mm² excellent in hole expandability and ductility, consisting essentially of, in terms of a mass%:

C	:	0.01 to 0.09%,
Si	:	1.2 to 1.5%,
Mn	:	0.5 to 3.2%,
Al	:	0.003 to 0.04%,
P	:	0.03% or below,
S	:	0.005% or below,
Ti	:	0.10 to 0.25%,
Nb	:	0.01 to 0.05%,

at least one of Ca, Zr and REM: 0.0005 to 0.01%,

the balance consisting of iron and unavoidable impurities; and

satisfying all of the following formulas <1> to <3>:

$$0.9 \leq 48/12 \times C/Ti < 1.7 \quad \dots \quad <1>$$

$$50,227 \times C - 4,479 \times Mn > -9,860 \quad \dots \quad <2>$$

$$811 \times C + 135 \times Mn + 602 \times Ti + 794 \times Nb > 465$$

$$\dots \quad <3>,$$

wherein said hot rolled steel sheet is produced by the steps comprising:

finishing hot rolling at rolling end temperature from an Ar₃ transformation point to 950°C;

cooling the steel sheet to 650 to 800°C at a cooling rate of at least 20°C/sec;

air cooling the steel sheet for 0.5 to 0.8 seconds;
 further cooling the steel sheet to 300 to 600°C at a cooling rate of at least 20°C/sec;
 and
 coiling the steel sheet, whereby ferritic structure is strengthened by TiC and/or NbC precipitates, Mn and C without adding Mg.

8. (New) A high-strength hot-rolled steel sheet having ferritic structure and a strength of at least 1049 N/mm² excellent in hole expandability and ductility, consisting essentially of, in terms of a mass%:

C	:	0.01 to 0.09%,
Si	:	1.2 to 1.5%,
Mn	:	0.5 to 3.2%,
Al	:	0.003 to 0.04%,
P	:	0.03% or below,
S	:	0.005% or below,
Ti	:	0.10 to 0.25%,
Nb	:	0.01 to 0.05%,

at least one of Cu: 0.1 to 1.5% and Ni: 0.1 to 1.0%,
 the balance consisting of iron and unavoidable impurities; and
 satisfying all of the following formulas <1> to <3>:

$$0.9 \leq 48/12 \times C/Ti < 1.7 \quad \dots \quad <1>$$

$$50,227 \times C - 4,479 \times Mn > -9,860 \quad \dots \quad <2>$$

$$811 \times C + 135 \times Mn + 602 \times Ti + 794 \times Nb > 465 \quad \dots \quad <3>,$$

wherein said hot rolled steel sheet is produced by the steps comprising:
 finishing hot rolling at rolling end temperature from an Ar₃ transformation point to 950°C;
 cooling the steel sheet to 650 to 800°C at a cooling rate of at least 20°C/sec;
 air cooling the steel sheet for 0.5 to 0.8 seconds;
 further cooling the steel sheet to 300 to 600°C at a cooling rate of at least 20°C/sec;
 and
 coiling the steel sheet, whereby ferritic structure is strengthened by TiC and/or NbC precipitates, Mn and C without adding Mg.

9. (New) A high-strength hot-rolled steel sheet having ferritic structure and a strength of at least 1049 N/mm² excellent in hole expandability and ductility, consisting essentially of, in terms of a mass%:

C	:	0.01 to 0.09%,
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Nb	:	0.01 to 0.05%,

at least one of Mo: 0.05 to 0.40% and V: 0.001 to 0.10%,

at least one of Ca, Zr and REM: 0.0005 to 0.01%,

the balance consisting of iron and unavoidable impurities; and

satisfying all of the following formulas <1>' to <3>':

$$0.9 \leq 48/12 \times C/Ti < 1.7 \quad \dots <1>'$$

$$50,227 \times C - 4,479 \times (Mn + 0.57 \times Mo + 1.08 \times V) > -9,860 \quad \dots <2>'$$

$$811 \times C + 135 \times (Mn + 0.57 \times Mo + 1.08 \times V) + 602 \times Ti + 794 \times Nb > 465 \quad \dots <3>', \text{ wherein said}$$

hot rolled steel sheet is produced by the steps comprising:

finishing hot rolling at rolling end temperature from an Ar₃ transformation point to 950°C;

cooling the steel sheet to 650 to 800°C at a cooling rate of at least 20°C/sec;

air cooling the steel sheet for 0.5 to 0.8 seconds;

further cooling the steel sheet to 300 to 600°C at a cooling rate of at least 20°C/sec;

and

coiling the steel sheet, whereby ferritic structure is strengthened by TiC and/or NbC precipitates, Mn and C without adding Mg.

10. (New) A high-strength hot-rolled steel sheet having ferritic structure and a strength of at least 1049 N/mm² excellent in hole expandability and ductility, consisting essentially of, in terms of a mass%:

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Ti	:	0.10 to 0.25%,
Nb	:	0.01 to 0.05%,

at least one of Mo: 0.05 to 0.40% and V: 0.001 to 0.10%,

at least one of Cu: 0.1 to 1.5% and Ni: 0.1 to 1.0%,

the balance consisting of iron and unavoidable impurities; and

satisfying all of the following formulas <1>' to <3>':

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$$811 \times C + 135 \times (Mn + 0.57 \times Mo + 1.08 \times V) + 602 \times Ti + 794 \times Nb > 465 \quad \dots <3>', \text{ wherein said}$$

hot rolled steel sheet is produced by the steps comprising:

finishing hot rolling at rolling end temperature from an Ar₃ transformation point to 950°C;

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